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the Martlet

The student newspaper of the University of Victoria since 1948

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Groups try to save grass in Alberta

by Calinda Brown

It may not stand as high, but the mixed grasslands of Alberta are just as ecologically important as our West Coast rainforests.

And like our rainforests, the last undisturbed areas of grasslands are under attack from development.

A joint committee of the National Energy Board and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Panel gave Express Pipelines of Alberta permission to build a pipeline through the Sage Creek Environmentally Significant Area, between Hardisty and Wildhorse, Alberta. Construction is slated to begin in August.

"This area constitutes the largest undisturbed block of grasslands left in Canada," said Diane Pachal, conservation director with the Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA).

"It is an endangered ecosystem. Species can't survive unless their habitat is intact. The largest portion of rare and endangered species [in Alberta] is in the grasslands," said Pachal.

A coalition of the AWA, the Federation of Alberta Naturalists and the Sierra Legal Defence Fund is challenging the committee's decision in court. They have asked for an injunction to prevent any development in the area until their case is heard.

"Part of our court challenge is that the committee didn't look at alternatives," said Pachal. "They could use a totally different corridor for the route, or use the other pipeline systems that crisscross Alberta."

But that isn't an option according to Bob Towler, senior vice-president for Express Pipelines.

"Crude oil is being produced faster than it can be moved away, so we need a greater capacity," he said. According to Towler there is a strong demand for Canadian oil in the Rocky Mountain and midwestern states, but Alberta's pipeline systems are full.

"This is the first energy project to fall under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. It's precedent-setting"

Towler said Express Pipelines' environmental assessment did not find any difference between the terrain of their proposed pipeline and that of any option presented by the coalition. It challenged the idea that Sage Creek is as environmentally significant as environmentalists claim.

"We were surprised to find this area, alleged to be a pristine area, had wire fences across it and cattle grazing on it," he said. He added that a part of the pipeline proposal included reclamation work to reseed disturbed areas with species that match the existing vegetation, so that once the pipeline is built and buried, the land will be returned to its previous state.

However, experts in prairie restoration doubt that an area can be reclaimed once it has been disturbed.

John Morgan, owner of Prairie Habitats in Argyle, Manitoba, says, "Restoring a prairie that has taken thousands of years to evolve is a complex process, and it can't happen in just a couple of years."

"You need to gather seeds from as close to the area as possible, and then hand-broadcast them or use a native seed drill, and then wait for rain," he said, adding that in dry southern Alberta, it may take decades for grass and plants to reclaim an area. Some root systems go down 20 feet and the plants take at least five to ten years to mature and start producing more seed.

"Local seed is the key. Most people try and reseed with species like crested wheatgrass, but it's native to the Soviet Union. I consider it a weed," Morgan said. Seed from the U.S. is cheap, but it's not native seed and can prevent native species from ever returning to an area.

"There are so many non-native weeds, and those are what take over in disturbed areas. They will muscle out native species [which] will never recover," Morgan said. According to Morgan, pipeline areas at CFB Sheffield near Medicine Hat, Alberta, that were seeded with crested wheatgrass 50 years ago still haven't recovered although they haven't been disturbed since.

The area of Express's proposed pipeline is approximately 7.8 sq kms. Morgan doesn't think there is enough native seed in all of Alberta to restore an area that large.

"The average acre [of native grassland] can have over 150 species of plants. But some only come to seed once every ten years, so if there's a bad year, you would have to wait another ten to gather seeds," he said. And increasing development of native grasslands means that a plant species may become extinct before it comes to seed again.

Northern Rough Fescue, the main grass in the Sage Creek area takes between seven and ten years to come to seed. Although some reseeding from surrounding areas is possible, Morgan doubts it could prevail against non-native weeds.

The relationship between the endangered plants and endangered animals isn't clear, but most environmentalists agree that habitat disruption is one of the main causes of species extinction. Eleven nationally listed endangered species live in the Sage Creek area, along with 19 provincially endangered animals including the Swift Fox, the Ferruginous Hawk, the Burrowing Owl and the Pronghorn Antelope.

Some birds need to live in areas that have rarely been grazed by cattle, including Baird's Sparrow. Others have evolved in areas that were heavily grazed by bison, like the Mountain Plover. These areas can often be only a few hundred metres apart. Such highly evolved and specialized habitats could be highly sensitive to disruption by the construction of a pipeline. Even if the grassland disturbed by pipeline construction can successfully be restored, this may not happen in time for the native species, and the genetic diversity of that area may be lost.

Environmentalists point to the 1992 UN Convention on Biodiversity signed by Canada, in which we agreed to maintain whole habitats - not just individual species.

Pachal also pointed to more subtle developments. Once the pipeline is built, the area it runs along would become a utility corridor which could then be used for other purposes. The resulting traffic along the right-of-way would result in increased roadkill, further endangering already fragile wildlife populations.

"This is the first energy project to fall under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. It's precedent-setting," she said. The decision clearly places increased consumption and development over environmental conservation Pachal added, saying that the "downstream" effect of the pipeline could be almost as troublesome as the destruction of the grassland.

"There will be increased consumption in the U.S. How does that affect their energy program?" she said.

Only 20 percent of the original native grasslands still exist in Canada, and the majority of those are in remote areas of Alberta, like Sage Creek.

"People who travel the Trans-Canada think they're travelling across the prairie, but they are going through cultivated land," Pachal said. "Few people have had a chance to experience a native grassland."

Prairie Habitats is working hard to maintain the genetic base of the grasslands in southern Manitoba, which includes tall grass prairies unique to the Red River Valley. But they also have a great deal of knowledge on how to start the process of restoration for native grasslands anywhere. Their self-published book, *Restoring Canada' Native Prairies* outlines the techniques needed. It is available from the B.C. Federation of Naturalist in Vancouver (604)727-3057, and includes a section on the grasslands of the Okanagan Valley, which are quickly disappearing under cultivation. Prairie Habitats can be contacted at (204)467-9371.

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Downtown panhandlers left out of the city's plans for its sidewalks

by Maura Parte

At the next Victoria City Council meeting on July 25, Councillors will have to make some decisions about panhandling in the downtown core. The Downtown Victoria Association and the Alternative Task Force on Panhandling presented their recommendations to the City in May and June. Since then, the reports have been reviewed by both the Social Planning Committee and the Downtown Advisory Committee. Their recommendations will be submitted to the Council for the final decision.

The Alternative Task Force on Panhandling was created by community members in response to the findings of the Downtown Victoria Association's (DVA) Downtown Task Force On Panhandling report that was submitted to City Council on May 2, 1996. Both reports outline possible strategies and solutions that the city could undertake to help alleviate the problem of panhandling in the downtown core.

The DVA recommended the creation of "Please Say No To Panhandlers" counter-cards for downtown businesses. The counter-cards, displaying "Please Say No To Panhandlers", will also be made into posters and put up in parkades, bus shelters, buses etc. A caption of the slogan will be included in all maps and tourist publications, along with the erection of permanent signage downtown to discourage panhandling. In addition they asked the city to consider controlled use by abutting property owners of a narrow strip of downtown public sidewalks. This would effectively make public sidewalks private property. They have also asked the city to formulate new by-laws to deal with Victoria panhandlers.

The Alternative Task Force on Panhandling has made the following recommendations to the Victoria City Council. The City should: a) develop a coordinated, inclusive, and respectful process for meeting community challenges; b) promote diversity and tolerance throughout the municipality; c) encourage the province to reconsider some of the recent changes to social assistance; d) take a greater role in supporting and providing social services.

Christobal Young, a member of the Alternative Task Force says the DVA is solely comprised of business interests in the downtown core and there are no avenues for consultation with the community workers or people living in poverty or Victoria's homeless population.

Members of the DVA Task Force acknowledged that they had not taken the time to conduct "the necessary study and examination of sociological and psychological issues contributing to the overall panhandling issue."

The Alternative Task Force undertook a survey of 45 people panhandling in Victoria's downtown. They also conducted a one-day open forum on panhandling, which heard from 22 people including: Victoria City Police; the Downtown Business Improvement Association; many community workers; CRD street nurses; Tenant's Action Group, a UVic Social Work professor, a Vic High student, a City Councillor; several panhandlers; and others living on social assistance.

The DVA believes that downtown panhandling is negatively impacting downtown businesses by scaring off potential customers. The Business Improvement Association (BIA) undertook a survey in the Fall of 1995 to find out how shoppers feel about the downtown area, and presented it to the Alternative Task Force. When consumers were asked why they would not go downtown to shop, only 2% mentioned that either it was too dangerous or there were too many street people. The main reason cited was poor parking, which was mentioned by 41% of respondents. Similarly, when consumers were asked what would cause them to go downtown more often, "fewer street people" was only mentioned by 5% of people, about the same response as those who mentioned better selection and lower priced stores.

A panhandler in downtown Victoria left out of participating in the Downtown Victoria Association's Task Force. photo - Cory Monahan

"I ended up on the street when I was 13 and I've been doing the circuit on and off for most of my life. I just came to Victoria from Ontario about 4 weeks ago. Of course you don't qualify for any benefits until you've been here for 90 days. I'm looking for a job, so I have no home, no fixed address, so its been really stressful for me... Panhandling is a way to put money on the table. It buys you a can of beans. I have a guitar so I can busk. If I couldn't do it I don't know where I would be. I'd have no income, and it's really hard to get a job...Where do you live? I don't have an address, you know."

"It's easy to talk about statistics, but the fundamental problem is that people are suffering, and they are suffering everyday, and [politicians] are trying to pass bylaws, trying to take away something that [these people] really need. They have already lost their pride, their self-esteem, their self-worth, and all they have left is the hospital, prison, or death.

The Task Force also heard from Sergeant Smith of the Victoria City Police about the DVA's charges of increased panhandling in the downtown core. Sgt. Smith noted that there are very few complaints of aggressive panhandling and that there has not been an increase in complaints. He also suggested that the perception of aggressive panhandling is based on the views of "a vocal minority," and that businesses are often requesting blanket by-laws based on one or two complaints.

The Alternative Task Force is trying to make the city understand the underlying issues behind panhandling. Another presenter to the Task Force, UVic Social Work professor and former mayor, David Turner explains that "panhandling is symptomatic of underlying problems: poverty, homelessness, unemployment, and alienation of youth. Without tackling these issues, panhandling will become an institutionalized part of Victoria life."

Nancy Parker from the Victoria Street Community Association (VSCA) also sees the effects of the welfare cuts and agrees the cuts are increasing the problems of panhandling and poverty. She cites changes to provincial policies last fall that enacted the 90 day residency requirement for social assistance eligibility and the reduction of welfare cheques for single employables to $500 a month.

Young views the DVA's recommendations as a general hardening of attitudes towards the poor in tough economic times. He says that small business owners are just trying to make a living, they're having a tough time and lashing out in the wrong direction.

The Task Force heard from a woman who recalled that the first time she saw a panhandler was in 1929 during the Great Depression. She said, "I have never seen panhandlers in Victoria as a menace, as a nuisance. Most of them seem young, vulnerable, very vulnerable, and for the most part friendly. So I have no feeling of menace from them at all."

The above information was adapted from Downtown Task Force on Panhandling (an initiative of the Downtown Victoria Association) and the Report of the Alternative Task Force on Panhandling.

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BoD sore over new health plan deal

by Kevin Woodley

The UVSS Board of Directors is fighting over a new UVic health plan that last year's Director of Finance, Ian Flemington, negotiated with the AETNA Insurance group for the upcoming academic year.

At the July 2 meeting, the board censured Flemington, now UVSS chairperson, for "abusing his rights as an executive member of the UVSS."

BoD members were not consulted by Flemington about the health plan issue.

Flemington said that the plan was negotiated before the current board was elected. "The negotiations with AETNA were completed well before the new board was in place, and the date on their final offer will reflect this," said Flemington.

Some board members felt that the new plan should have been discussed by the entire board, before it was finally signed. "I only found out about the new plan on July 2, at an unrelated operational meeting," said Conrad Thompson, this years Director of Finance.

The Board also passed a motion to reaffirm that the Director of Finance be responsible for negotiating the health plan.

Flemington maintained that this was exactly what he did, while acting as last year's finance director , and that the same procedure was followed when he first started that job, last year. "The logistics of the health plan have never been brought to the new board in the past," Flemington said.

The board also passed a motion directing both Flemington and this year's finance director, Conrad Thompson to inform AETNA that the signed contract was invalid.

The BoD also instructed Thompson to use the AETNA contract in new negotiations with Sunlife, the present insurance provider.

Because Thompson has not received a copy of the contract he has been unable to follow through on the board's request. "I am frustrated that I have not been able to get a copy of something that the entire board is supposedly behind," said Thompson.

Flemington made it clear that he could not release the contract if it was going to be used as a means to negotiate with another insurance company. "This is a legal document that the UVSS has already entered into. It would be against proper and legal business principles to use this document for what the new board intends," he said.

Certain board members are also concerned that the new contract eliminates the Canadian Federation of Students from it's usual involvement with the health plan. "Their input into the structure of the insurance market will be lost to the Director of Finance when he tries to negotiate a new contract for 1996-97," said Thompson. "By moving to AETNA Insurance, we are totally on our own."

Thompson expressed concerns that without the CFS, there will be a loss of dialogue with the students.

The CFS received $38,698.01 from the current Sunlife contract with the University of Victoria.

Flemington is less concerned about losing the CFS support during next years negotiations. "This contract includes a price guarantee for two years," he said, "But the UVSS is only committed to the first year . After that the new finance director is free to negotiate similar packages with another company." Whether or not the next director chooses to use the CFS in these negotiations will be that persons decision.

Flemington said he was able to find a better deal on health coverage for UVic students by eliminating the CFS as an agent in the negotiations. He also noted that other universities had broken from CFS-supported companies to sign similar contracts with AETNA.

After initially negotiating with Sunlife Insurance, Flemington was told that he would not be able to get a better deal on the health plan. In fact, Sunlife told him that, because of market inflation, each student would have to pay an extra $14 for the same coverage next year.

Any increase in cost must be approved by the students through a referendum, and the time for such a question had already passed. The UVSS would therefore have to bear any increased cost, and the board's budget indicated this was not possible.

Sunlife returned with an offer to accept only an additional $7 dollars per student, but the UVSS would also have to pay their own Health Plan Administrator costs. These costs are included in the current deal.

Flemington decided to pursue other offers before agreeing to a new deal with Sunlife. In this pursuit he eliminated the CFS as a third party, and instead dealt exclusively with a private insurance brokerage here in Victoria.

The negotiating of a new health plan has never been a simple reaffirmation of an old plan. Two years ago, UVic was covered by a company other than Sunlife.

"The result was an offer from AETNA Insurance that included better coverage at a decreased cost," said Flemington.

The new coverage includes 80 percent reimbursement with no maximum for prescription drugs (up from 70 percent in the current plan), and the implementation of an easier method of reimbursement. With previous plans, students have had to pay for their entire prescription up front, and then wait for the refund.

"The new plan will use health cards that students will receive at the beginning of the year," said Flemington. "When students present these cards at the pharmacy, they will only have to pay the 20 percent that they are responsible for. This way students don't have to sit around, waiting for their refund cheque to arrive."

Flemington said that the cash surplus generated from the lower cost would first be used to pay for Health Plan Administrator costs. After that, the board would decide how to use the remainder of funds in a way to benefit students.

The CFS received $38,698.01 from the current Sunlife contract with the University of Victoria. The new contract allows the UVSS, not the CFS, to use any surplus.

Other board members have expressed concern over AETNA being an American company. These members are also worried that the new plan won't allow for changes in aboriginal issues that have come up recently in regards to the health plan.

"The issues that are being expressed regarding aboriginal rights in the university health plan are worthwhile and need to be looked at," said Flemington.

"What the new board needs to remember is that the contract was negotiated long before these issues were brought forward. Any new contract that I could have negotiated would lack these agreements. There is still room for talk with AETNA regarding these issues," he said.

Bill could leave bookworms tax-free

by Melinda Skeels

Text books could cost you seven per cent less next year.

Bill S-11, a Senate bill aimed at removing the GST from reading materials and keeping them out of a harmonized sales tax, passed first reading in the Senate on June 20.

Three Atlantic provinces are currently seeking to harmonize the federal and provincial taxes. They must sign an agreement with Ottawa on the tax base by October 23. Books, magazines and newspapers are not currently taxed provincially, but are covered under the G.S.T.

"The Liberal Party has repeatedly promised to remove the G.S.T. from reading," says Jacqueline Hushion, chair of the Don't Tax Reading Coalition. "The [Atlantic] provinces have said very clearly that they aren't willing to tax reading under a harmonized sales tax. If the feds want harmonization, now is the time for them to carry out their repeated promise to zero-rate reading under G.S.T."

Progressive Conservative Senator Consiglio Di Nino introduced the bill. Debate will begin in the Senate on September 20.

At least one UVic student was thrilled with the prospect of no longer having to pay G.S.T. on her text books. "When you're spending $600 a term on texts, seven per cent tax is a lot of money."

RCMP lies revealed

by Kevin Woodley

Don't believe everything you hear - or read.

That was the message coming out of the Ts'peten Defenders (Gustafson Lake) trial as it progressed in Surrey courts last week.

Mass media coverage of the standoff was based on RCMP press releases and conferences. Information revealed at the trial, even from the RCMP themselves, has exposed these past releases as false.

Testimony from Sgt. Armstrong, an RCMP member of the Emergency Response Team, revealed that officers were given the green light to shoot to kill by Supt. Len Oferet.

Armstrong also testified that he, along with other experts, set up land mines around the Defender camp's perimeter.

It was one of these land mines that exploded under a Defender truck on September 11, 1995. The mine detonated when two camp members attempted to retreive water from a nearby lake.

Armstrong testified to firing between 30 and 50 rounds of ammunition at the two members, as they fled the damaged truck. He stated that he heard, over his radio, that the fleeing members were armed.

Afterwards, doctors removed an RCMP .223 bullet from the arm of Suniva Bronson, an occupant of the truck.

RCMP reports now reveal that neither of the two people in the truck were armed. The two did not fire shots at RCMP.

The trial has shifted away from accusations against Ts'peten members, and is focussing on the actions of both RCMP and the landowner involved in the dispute.

Both RCMP Commissioner, Dennis Farrell and Assistant Commissioner, Denis Brown have appeared to answer questions regarding the use of excessive police force during the standoff.

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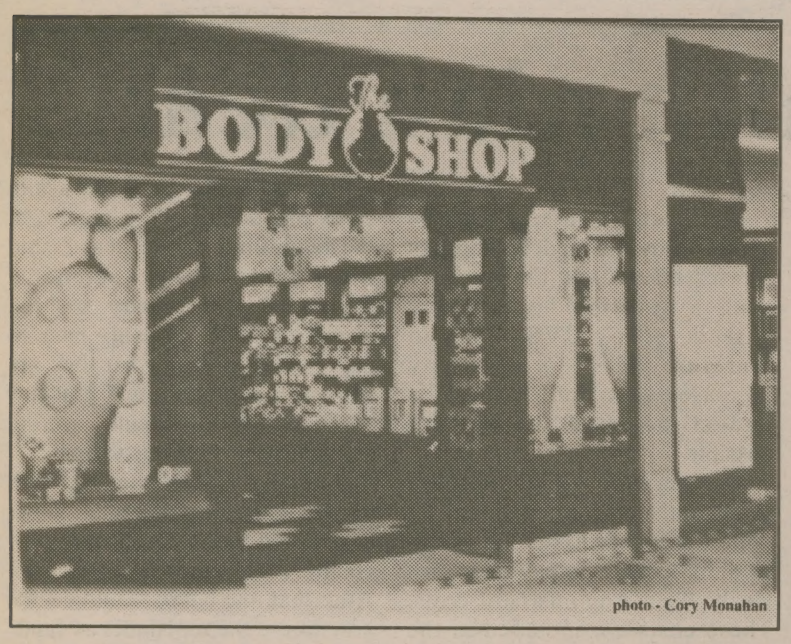


photo - Cory Monahan

Debate over facelift

by Robin Pridy

New products, new packaging and a new staff look confront customers of The Body Shop, a company well known for its beauty products with principles.

The salesclerks no longer don t-shirts and vests, but pale yellow jackets and salmon-toned shirts—and all of them seem to wear makeup.

Traditional products such as Banana Conditioner, which looks, smells and feels like a mashed banana in a bottle, now sit next to three-step facial cleansing regimens, with names like Hydrating Lotion.

New products, such as No Debate Oil and Activist Oil, speak for themselves. No longer will customers just be dipping their faces, feet and other body parts into the garden of earthly Body Shop delights. According to these, and many other new product titles, they will now be exfoliating, invigorating and even debating with them.

Customers are noticing the new products, as well as the slick new packaging they arrive in – labels sporting calligraphy, muted shades and no mention of any exotic fruit or vegetables. There is also a new shape to many of the containers – tubes that are not refillable.

Catherine Douglas, a 26-year-old student who has been shopping at the Body Shop for years, said that she no longer goes there as often as she used to. "I'm concerned about their principles lately," she said, adding that she does not feel comfortable with the store's new marketing strategy.

According to one Body Shop employee, while several people have said that they liked the old

New products, such as No Debate Oil and Activist Oil, speak for themselves.

look of the store better, many more have complimented them on the changes, noting that the staff looks more professional.

Despite this facelift, a major overhaul has not yet occurred; the causes and issues that the Body Shop raises awareness and money for are still there. They are still against animal testing and most of their older products remain.

Yet, these small changes could lead to bigger implications. A corporation that has long been a bastion of individuality and progressive concepts is taking a new turn in the world of marketing strategies, perhaps becoming a bit more bland in the meantime— and perhaps making a better profit because of it.

BoD stumps Steel

by Tim Theroux

Little headway has been made in negotiations between the UVSS and the United Steelworkers of America, which represents SUB staff.

The two sides met eight times between June 5 and July 5 to discuss new contract terms for SUB employees. While agreement has been reached in some areas, the two sides remain deadlocked on the issues of wages and equity. An overwhelming majority of SUB staff endorsed a strike mandate on July 3 .

According to Angie Sorrell, president of Local 9288 of the USWA, the impasse stems mostly from the presence of Richard Ames, a professional negotiator hired by the UVSS Board of Directors.

"They [management] are looking to him for direction but that direction is coming from his perspective, which is ignorant of the society itself," said Sorrell.

Sorrell questioned Ames' price tag, claiming eight days of his services equal a one percent across-the-board wage increase that SUB staff will not see.

Ian Flemington, chair of the BoD and a UVSS negotiator, insisted Ames is not guiding the UVSS and it is unfortunate and unnecessary that the Steelworkers resent him.

...an overwhelming majority of SUB staff endorsed a strike mandate on July 3

"The UVSS hired Ames to take direction from us to expedite negotiations, but what we've found is the exact opposite," said Flemington. He believes that Ames' involvement will still save money in the long run.

The controversy surrounding Ames spilled into the July 15 BoD meeting in the upper SUB. Union members sitting in the gallery pressured Flemington to promise a written explanation as to why Ames was hired, how much his services cost and what hiring procedure was used to fill the position.

The Steelworkers also bombarded the board with criticism as it announced plans to purchase new capital goods, computers and laser scanners.

The workers claimed that such purchases are not only unnecessary, but prove that the BoD expects them to bear an unfair share of cost-cutting measures.

Although members of the BoD repeatedly maintained that the purchases would draw from funds allocated for capital replacement in the budget, the Steelworkers did not seem appeased.

The UVSS and USWA will resume discussions at the end of the month when negotiators for both sides return from holidays.

Cyber-classrooms are steadily increasing at UVic

by Oliver Kuehn

One of a number of courses recently offered at UVic with some type of internet component, 'Introduction to the Arts of Canada' (FA or ACAN 225) will give students a choice: attending classes in person or on-line. This course, which examines Canada's arts and cultural issues is offering this on-line option for the first time. Students will receive the same course materials and course load as their classroom attending counterparts and will write the same exam, but will have the option of choosing to do their coursework at any time of the day, via the World Wide Web. In addition, on-line students will undertake 'virtual field trips' as part of their curriculum, visiting the web sites of Canadian arts organizations such as the C.B.C. and National Film Board.

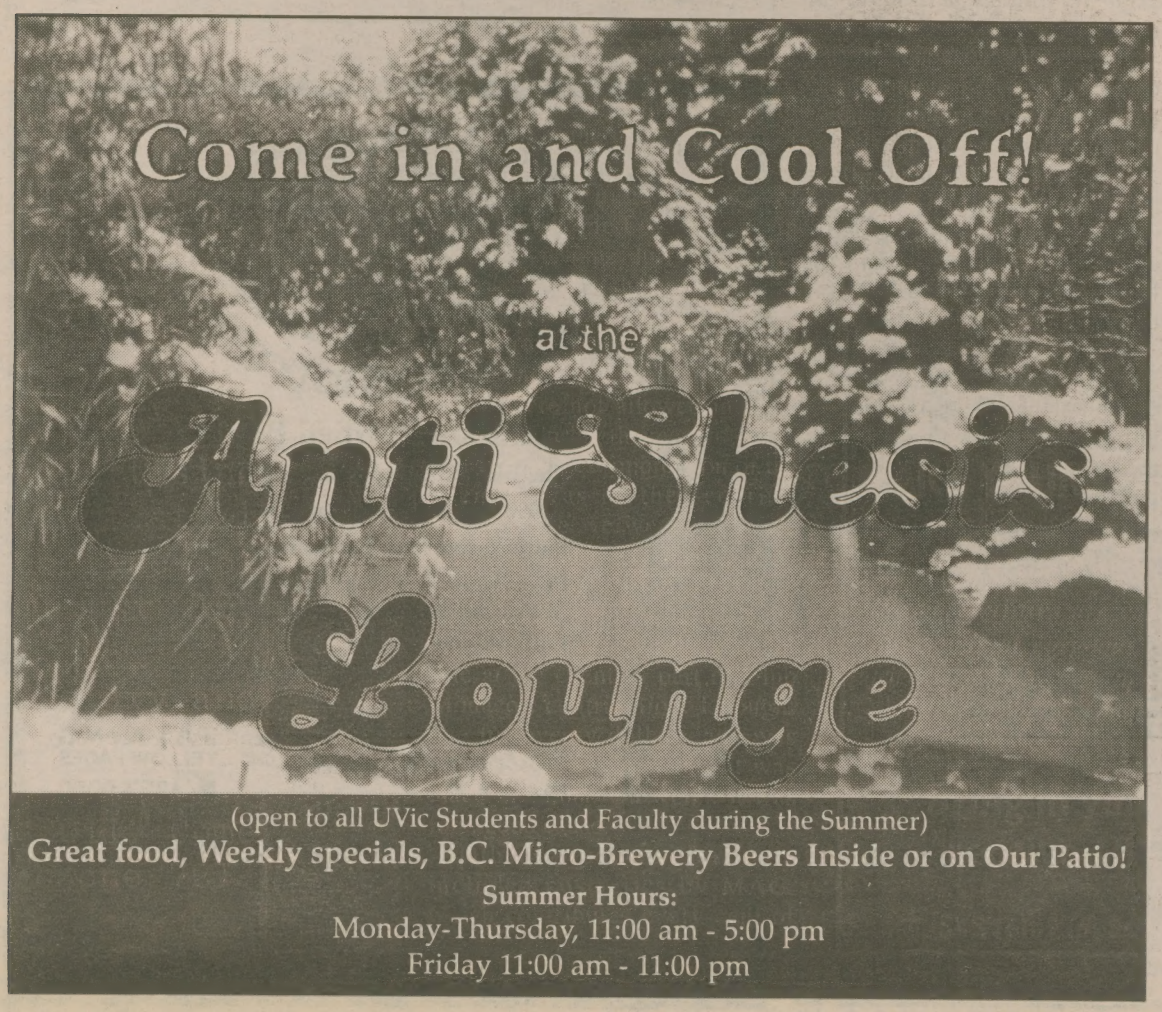
Courses in "Art and Technology" (FA 246+346), also in the Faculty of Fine Arts, use the Web for posting student assignments as well as e-mail and

students have choice of attending classes in-person, or in cyberspace.

newsgroups for both handing in assignments and keeping students up to date on the latest class developments.

The course's instructor, Dr. Joan Backus, from the School of Music, feels the course's broad appeal makes it a good candidate for distributed learning. On whether this might mean the future obsolesence of classrooms, Backus answers she feels that offering increased schedule flexibility for students with other obligations, particularly for those who have computers at home outweighs the potential that their might be for increased alienation of students. Where it differs from a typical distance learning course, Backus says, is in the "constant contact and support" available via the e-mail listserve, which means that students will feel less isolated than they would with a typical 'at home' university correspondence course

Those who wish to find out more can contact Dr. Backus at 721-7910.



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Quote of the week:

"I want the grand opening to be like the last supper" UVSS Bookeeper Kenzie Bingham on the SUB grand opening

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DOUBLEDITORIAL

We like to think we live in a fairly progressive city. Take the Pride March for example. It happened on such a lovely day, and received equally, err, lovely coverage in our local newspaper. They even kept in a quote from hard-working organizer Nicola Harwood. Guess they thought it added some flavour.

We should probably be grateful for that. If lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people and their supporters are getting coverage should we really care that the article was more concerned about two American tourists and their position on nipple rings than the purpose of the march? It doesn't matter if solidarity wasn't touched on, does it? Everyone knows all that stuff.

Right.

The coverage of other parades in town, like the annual Earth Day parade, isn't focused on what spectators thought, or how funny it was they didn't understand some of the signs. It's wrong to call inane and condescending comments from spectators coverage of queer issues, or to treat someone's ignorance of homophobia as a joke. There is too little about queers in the mainstream media as it is.

As Victoria's only daily paper, the Times- Colonist could have written an informative and non-biased article that acknowledged the rights of gay people, the struggles and triumphs within this community over the past few years, Instead, the article displayed the very ignorance that spawn's "an irrational fear of homosexuals."

Perhaps focusing on the spectacle of the parade instead of its politics was an attempt to avoid offending readers. Instead, it denied the entire purpose of the Pride Day – and denied queers in Victoria a voice – again.

Tourists will find everything we do "quaint" and "interesting", that's why they came here. But that isn't the story. The real story is with the kid, holding a sign reading "My Mom's a Dyke". It's with her Mom. The parade was for them, not John and Elizabeth from Michigan. It's a political celebration, joyous and strong. It's reality, not a freak show.

Editorial topics are decided by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at 4 p.m. in the Martlet, *SUB B011. Editorials are written by one or more staff members; opinions are not necessarily those of all staff.*

The environmental movement has always thought big: Save the Whales! Stop Logging in Clayoquot Sound! Those were the big problems, easily seen. People gave their five bucks to whatever cause was fashionable, and thought they had done their part.

In the meantime, native plants and bugs were displaced from gardens all across our country in favour of pretty blooming plants or grass that produced a lush lawn.

Now we're starting to realize we can't save any of the big things like whales, or old-growth trees, unless we save the small things in our backyard like bugs, bacteria and grass.

Scientists started warning us the earth couldn't handle the sweeping changes of rapid industrial development in the early part of this century, and disasters such as the Love Canal chemical spill in the 70s, and Bhopal and Chernobyl in the 80s gave those warnings a lot of weight.

In the 90s, those warnings have come true. Fish stocks all over the world are declining, there is a shortage of food grains for fodder and for human consumption, and NASA reported that 1995 was the hottest year worldwide since recording of temperatures first started.

Our global climate is changing. But what about our local climate?

What happens when another parking lot is built here at UVic? How many trees, grasses, plants, bugs, birds, bacteria, and animals are displaced for a few more cars? How does that affect how the wind blows around campus, or where the rainwater goes?

Climate change worldwide is a huge process but it starts small. And worldwide, it starts with the destruction of native habitats, whether its cutting down old-growth trees, open-pit mining, or destroying native grasslands.

As John Morgan of Prairie Habitats said, restoring an ecosystem that is the result of thousands of years of evolution is almost impossible. But if we want to slow climate change, we've got to start somewhere, and replacing native habitats is one step.

The University of Victoria and Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group restored part of the Finnerty Gardens beside the MacLaurin building. The Native Vegetation Garden is still manicured, and the plants are arranged for their aesthetic value, but they need less water and support the ecosystems of the native trees around campus.

Buying a native rose for your garden instead of some hybrid that produces huge blooms might seem like a token gesture, or even a useless one but every person who makes an decision to improve their local climate will aid the global climate.

And the force of individual voices just might stop the roar from corporations who say the consequences of climate change are unknown and they're not going to stop doing business their way until someone proves conclusively it is destroying our planet.

Yes, there have been huge climatic changes in Earth's past. One of them meant the end of the dominant lifeform, dinosaurs. Now we're a lot smarter than dinosaurs, and technology can solve a lot of problems, but it is the height of stupidity and arrogance to assume we would survive a global climate change.

The dinosaurs died because there was no food left. Global food stores of grains - wheat, rice and corn - are at their lowest ever, rising sea levels from increased temperatures are destroying shellfish beds and weird weather patterns are making vegetable and fruit farming a gambling business. Some experts estimate we're staying ahead of worldwide famine by a margin of weeks.

It will be the poorest people of the world who suffer the most from climate change. We could stand back and just watch it happen, or we could take the small steps that are available to us here to slow the rate of change. Just saying something is wrong and throwing money at the problem while we continue to create one in our own backyards won't work.

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Letters →→→→→→→→→→→

The *Martlet* has an open letters policy and will undertake to print every letter received from members of the university community, with priority to undergraduate students. Letters must be **TYPEWRITTEN** (you can use *Martlet* computers), submitted on disk, or e-mailed, and include your name and phone number for verification. **LETTERS MUST BE 200 WORDS MAXIMUM.** Letters will be reviewed for libel at the *Martlet* editorial meeting, 4 p.m. on the week of publication. Deadline is Monday noon. Letters will be prioritized in the order received. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed. Letters will not be edited for spelling or grammar. Announcements will be directed to billboards. Letters can be mailed to Box 3035, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C., V8W 3P3, dropped off at SUB B011 or e-mailed to martlet@uvic.ca.

Huh?

Editors:

I would like to embellish on my letter in the June 20th Martlet by stating that it is important for all colors of politicians to know where this country is headed besides an Ozark populated by hillbillies with rusty motorcycles and copies of the Rubaiyat. It is simply a fact that if the reigns of the economic processes and entrance in Canadian Universities cannot be just for wealthy Canadians and priviledged citizens of it's peacful economic adversaries. Let us not forget that nationality is a game. Before you can win a game you must recognize that you are playing one. Politicians should be the first to polish their motorcycles and decant a glass of B.C. wine and think about what the property owners of this country have got. (And the mess we want to stay out of).

Yours sincerely,
Sydney Felber

Huh again????

Editors:

Summer proceeds as disconnected bits of pavement surrounding the library are replaced, drafting the premise of future demolitions. I note three process diagnostics:

1) Healthy slabs suffer the International Warning Orange cross while cracked, tilted, and lifted slabs are mostly spared.

2) The hydraulic slab shatterer sets its steel pads on two other slabs when it performs, damaging them.

3)Given the awesome chronic expenditures of this futile process, nobody has moved to increase the concrete's thickness, pour better concrete, give it a proper sand bed, elevate the reinforcing mesh as in civil engineering texts, provide expansion joints, or hold somebody accountable for doing a competent job year to year.

Perhaps a two-tier sidewalk is indicated - standard and toll. Hearings must be held, studies must be done. An Alternative Task Force must convene to bloviate and submit expense chits. Where are the departments of History, Philosophy, and French Literature when we need them?

Has a feminist voice been solicited?

Sincerely,
Alan "Uncle Al" Schwartz

Time For Change

By Melissa Atkinson

Until just recently, Jake Evans would get up at six in the morning and make the long drive to Duncan, where he worked as a forestry engineer. It was an all-male staff and Jake was just one of the guys. But life hasn't always been this simple for him.

Jake is a transsexual, and before his name-change three years ago, he was known as Mary.

His childhood was a constant nightmare filled with confusion and struggle. At six years old he endured hard slaps from his mother over his refusal to wear a yellow sun dress. This struggle continued until he was twenty-two, when he decided enough was enough.

Just before leaving for his grandfather's funeral, Jake realized it was time for a change.

"I'll never forget this, says Evans. My mother said, those clothes are inappropriate; you must put on something prettier. She laid out a blouse and skirt. I looked at her and said, no way. She said, you're going to wear this, and I said, no I'm not and you can't make me."

Less than a year later Evans was in his truck and heading to the Vancouver General Hospital's Gender Dysphoria Clinic.

Jake Evans is not his real name, it has been changed in order to protect his privacy, and legally he is not a male but a female.

Looking at him now, after two years of being on testosterone and a recent mastectomy, it is hard to believe he was once Mary. It seems as absurd as putting Mike Tyson in a tutu and calling him Michelle.

Even though Evans is small, measuring in at five feet, three inches, he has a solid, athletic build. His hair is cropped army-issue short and usually kept hidden under a baseball cap. He even has an Adam's apple, nature's only real gift to him, and a raspy baritone voice.

Unlike Tyson who has the hardware to prove he's a man, Evans has had to buy it. Unfortunately for Evans, the process isn't cheap. The transformation from female to male can cost upwards of $60,000. In the reverse, male to female, it is around $10,000.

At 25, Jake's present income is just over $20,000 a year. This means that for Jake, and other transsexuals in low-income brackets, the reconstructive surgery might as well not be available at all. However, recent policy changes to the Medical Services Plan now make the operation more affordable.

In July 1995, the Medical Service Commission set up a sub-committee to negotiate contracts with various reconstructive surgeons across Canada, the U.S. and Europe. When the contracts are finalized, individual transsexuals may apply for full coverage for some of the operations required to complete their transformation.

Since the start of this new policy, people like Jack Weisgerber of the Reform Party have complained that these operations do not treat a medical problem and should not be funded from the "public purse." But MSP believes that if the medical community at large feels a particular operation is beneficial then it will provide adequate coverage.

"Of course there are certain criteria that each transsexual must meet in order to qualify for coverage," says Janet van Klaveren MSP sub-committee coordinator.

An applicant must have a recommendation from one of the three gender clinics in Canada: the Clarke Institute in Toronto, the VGH Gender Dysphoria Clinic in Vancouver or the clinic at the Montreal General Hospital. Also, the transsexual must be mentally stable and functioning within society as the sex they wish to become, and be fully accepted by society as that sex.

For male to female transsexuals this means electrolysis of unwanted hair, the removal of the Adam's apple, breast implants, hormones and appropriate mannerisms. The transition into society for female to male transsexuals may require an immediate mastectomy, hormones and male mannerisms.

But before a transsexual can even dare to dream of a new body, he or she must first endure a long process of evaluation, which some say feels like struggling to move through a river of mud.

First, an individual must find his or her way to the clinic's doorstep. Often that is through such means as a guidance counsellor, social worker or even a talk show.

"I remember watching Phil Donahue," said Evans. "There was this transsexual model on the show, Caroline Cossey, and she was describing everything that was going on inside of me. After that I just started pawing through books for information. But that was next to impossible because where I lived was like hanging out with the Beverly Hillbillies."

The name for Evans' condition is gender dysphoria. It is defined as feeling ill-at-ease with one's biological gender identity. Once referred to the clinic, a patient must fill out an application and questionnaire. The questionnaire is designed to quickly weed out those individuals who are not suitable transsexual candidates.

"Every so often an application comes back and we can see that they are definitely not ours because they [have] paraphilia (sexual perversion) or something else," says VGH sexual psychiatrist Dr. Oliver Robinow.

If an individual is considered a possible transsexual candidate, he or she will be assessed by two different psychiatrists. The assessment is based on the Watson Table developed by Dr. Dianne Watson, director of the VGH Gender Dysphoria Clinic and a leader in the field of sexual medicine in Canada.

The table divides the range of gender dysphoria from a scale of one to five, with a score of four or five indicating true-blue transsexualism. A number four candidate will be between 30-50 years old and will have spent most of his or her life suppressing a desire to be another sex. A number five will have known from a very early age that he or she is physically in the wrong body.

"I knew at three that I wasn't like all the other little kids, It wasn't a conscious thought in my head, I just knew that I felt like a little boy," says Jake.

Number fives usually move very quickly through the system. They are sent to an endrocine clinic for a physical exam and hormone survey, then put on the appropriate hormone.

"After that it is then a question of how hard they push themselves," says Dr. Robinow. "We base their advancement through the program and eventual surgeries on how much motivation there is on their part."

But it is the mental stability of these transsexuals that the government is concerned about. There is a higher than average rate of attempted suicides, depression and substance abuse among transsexuals.

Jake Evans has been an alcoholic since he was 13, although currently he has been sober for over two years. "I never used alcohol to fit in and be liked, which is true of a lot of alcoholics. I just wanted to escape," says Jake.

"What the government and the public needs to understand is that it is the hope and promise of surgery that pulls these people together," says Dr. Robinow. Without some kind of solution available to them they will continue to be in the medical system. A stay in a hospital for depression or a failed suicide attempt can cost almost as much as the male-female reconstructive surgery.

Jack Weisgerber of the Reform Party believes it is ludicrous to fund sex change operations. "The government contends that it will save money in the long run by paying for sex change operations and ostensibly reducing counselling costs for transsexuals. In all likelihood, the policy will only succeed in turning BC into a Mecca for Canadians seeking publicly-funded sex change operations - a procedure that is also morally problematic for many B.C. taxpayers," says Weisgerber.

Currently, the Mecca-making number that Weisgerber is referring to is about 50 true transsexuals on active file at the VGH clinic and awaiting surgery. Many transsexuals are satisfied with the hormones and some surgery, and have no desire to go any further.

For those changing from female to male who are in need of phalloplasty (the surgical reproduction of a penis), MSP does not plan to cover it. This particular surgery is the most expensive, ranging anywhere from $50,000 to $100,000. "It is considered still in the experimental stage and not fully approved by the medical community. Until it is, we won't cover it," says Janet van Klaveren.

Stephanie Castle, transsexual and author of *Feeling: A Transsexual's Explanation Of A Baffling Condition* estimates that transsexualism occurs about one in every 100,000 males and one in every 250,000 females. In B.C. she estimates a transsexual population of 120 of both sexes.

So far, scientists have been unable to find conclusive evidence for the cause of this condition, though some believe it may be related to neurological abnormalities. A study conducted by Dr. Watson found four times the likelihood of left-handedness in transsexuals as in the general population. In female-to-males there is a high occurrence of polycystic ovaries. There is also some speculation over a possible rush of hormones to the fetus from shocks to the mother during pregnancy.

These signs lend weight to the idea that transsexualism is a biological, not a mental condition, suggesting that sexual reassignment may be the only treatment that would works, says Dr. Robinow.

As for the moral and ethical question concerning transsexualism, Dr. Robinow feels that society has a tendency to see things in black and white, with males over here and females over there. Sexuality is not absolute, he believes, but a continuum differing with each individual.

Jake Evans sees it in very concrete terms. "Why would I put myself through this? Why would I have 60 stitches ripping through my chest, have parts ripped off, or taken out or put on?" For him, this process has also meant losing his family. His father no longer speaks to him and his mother refuses to accept his new male status. He says she constantly refers to a person that no longer exists, and if she can't find a way to deal with his change then he will cut her out of his life.

"This is who I am," he says. " It is not a choice" But no matter what happens Evans can never go back home. "I come from a town of 1500 people. If people found out about me, they'd burn my mother's house down," he says.

Jake Evans has lived in the male role for over two years. Those who meet him never question his identity, and even if MSP never covers the phalloplasty surgery necessary to make him complete, Evans doesn't care. He will do whatever it takes to fix what he sees as nature's error.

"As the years go on and the more changes take place, I can't remember the person I was before. Its like that person is dead," says Evans. "Whoever that was, it was an illusion that was created. The illusion still exists in other peoples' minds, but it just doesn't exist in my mind."

Lollapalooza for a Terminal Illness

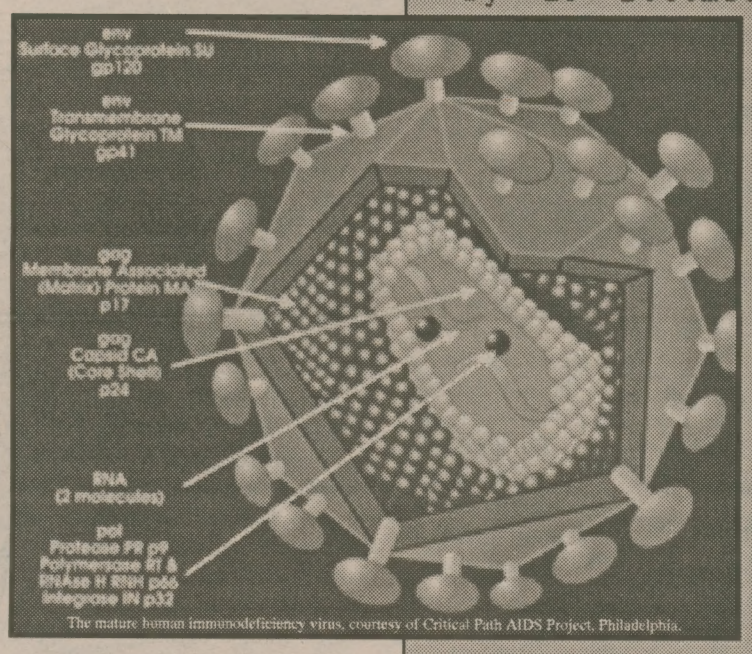
by David Low

Quilt: AIDS Conference official image by Vancouver artist Joe Average

One hopes that corporate safe sex takes place in the recent marriage of pharmaceutical giants British Glaxo and U.S. Burroughs Wellcome. At least they'll have dual citizenship for an illness that knows no boundaries.

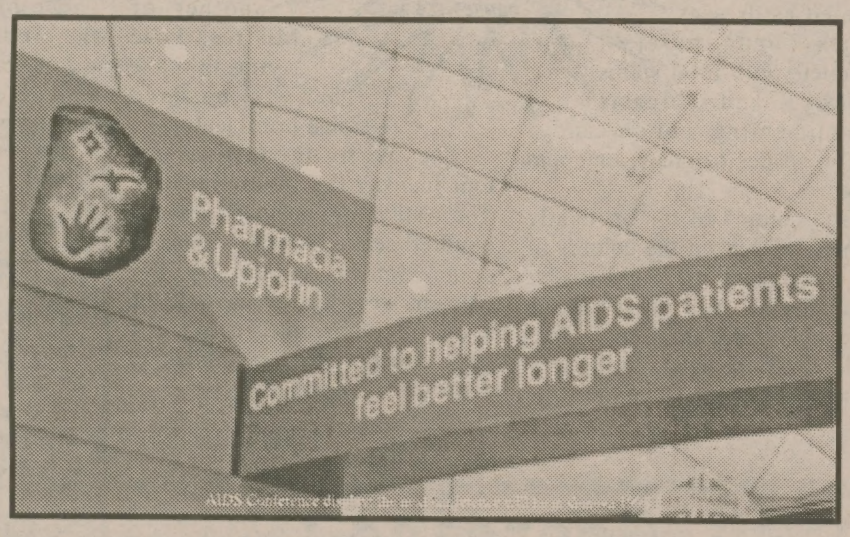
The corporate displays at the 11th International Conference on AIDS in Vancouver held July 1-12 were overwhelming. The Hoffman La Roche display was shaped like their pills in three large hexagons, Pharmacia & Upjohn featured revolving signs and backlit photo displays but Glaxo Wellcome (who hold the patent on AZT) outdid them all with steamship funnel display towers and a second story cappuccino bar all in a nautical blue and white motif (the corporate colours).

That these displays are so elaborate and costly is not a real surprise. Bristol Myers/Squibb, Glaxo Wellcome, Roche and Ortho Biotech are all corporate supporters of the conference. Major pharmaceutical companies have grown wealthier from the AIDS epidemic (now in its 15th year) producing expensive treatments. Ironically, Durex, the corporate supplier of the official condom of the conference, produce the most effective and least expensive form of protection from the virus.



The mature human immunodeficiency virus, courtesy of Critical Path AIDS Project, Philadelphia.

The epidemic has made for strange relationships evident at the Vancouver conference. Activist groups such as ACT-UP Paris and San Francisco are now working with the big drug companies in search of treatments for AIDS. Also, the official conference image, "Quilt," by HIV positive Vancouver artist Joe Average appeared on pamphlets, banners and t-shirts as well as on the Westel $10 phone card and a Starbuck's commuter tumbler. Both Starbuck's and Westel are donating portions of the proceeds of sales to the conference.



In addition to a selection of products, the conference offered a wide selection of presentations. The topics ranged from "Gay Men's Stereotypes About Who is HIV Infected" to "Association of Disregulated Production of 1L-10 with Alterations in the CD 28 B7 Co-stimulatory Pathway in HIV Infection."

With over 14,000 delegates and 450 booths from corporations, non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations and government agencies it is no wonder that the concerns of the people attending are so diverse. No wonder since the virus that brings them together is everywhere.

HIV+ THE FACTS OF AIDS

• The acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) was first recognized in 1981 among homosexual men in the United States of America.

• In 1983, the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) - the virus that causes AIDS - was identified.

• Extensive spread of HIV appears to have begun in the late 1970s or early 1980s among men and women with multiple sexual partners in East and Central Africa and the Caribbean, and among homosexual or bisexual men in certain urban areas of the Americas, Australasia, and Western Europe. Today, the virus is being transmitted in all countries.

• By 15 December 1995, 1,291,810 cumulative cases of AIDS had been reported to the World Health Organization - an increase of more than 25% over the 1,025,073 cases reported by the end of 1994.

• UNAIDS estimates that more than 7 million AIDS cases in adults (those aged 15-49) and children have occurred since HIV began spreading extensively in the late 1970s, taking into account reporting delays, incomplete reporting, under-diagnosis, and lack of access to health care.

• Currently, 21 million adults are living with HIV/AIDS. Since the start of the HIV pandemic, more than 25.5 million adults have been infected with HIV, and more than 4.5 million of them have died from HIV-associated conditions.

• Approximately 42% of the 21 million adults living with HIV/AIDS are women and this proportion is growing.

• The majority of adult HIV infections occur between the ages of 15 and 24 years. The majority of AIDS cases occur before age 35, and over 90% of all AIDS deaths occur before the age of 49.

• Worldwide, between 75% and 85% of HIV infections in adults have been transmitted through unprotected sexual intercourse. Heterosexual intercourse accounts for more than 70% of all adult HIV infections to date and homosexual intercourse for the remaining 5%-10%.

Figures and Trends from the UNAIDS website
Http://gpawww.who.gh/gpahome.htm

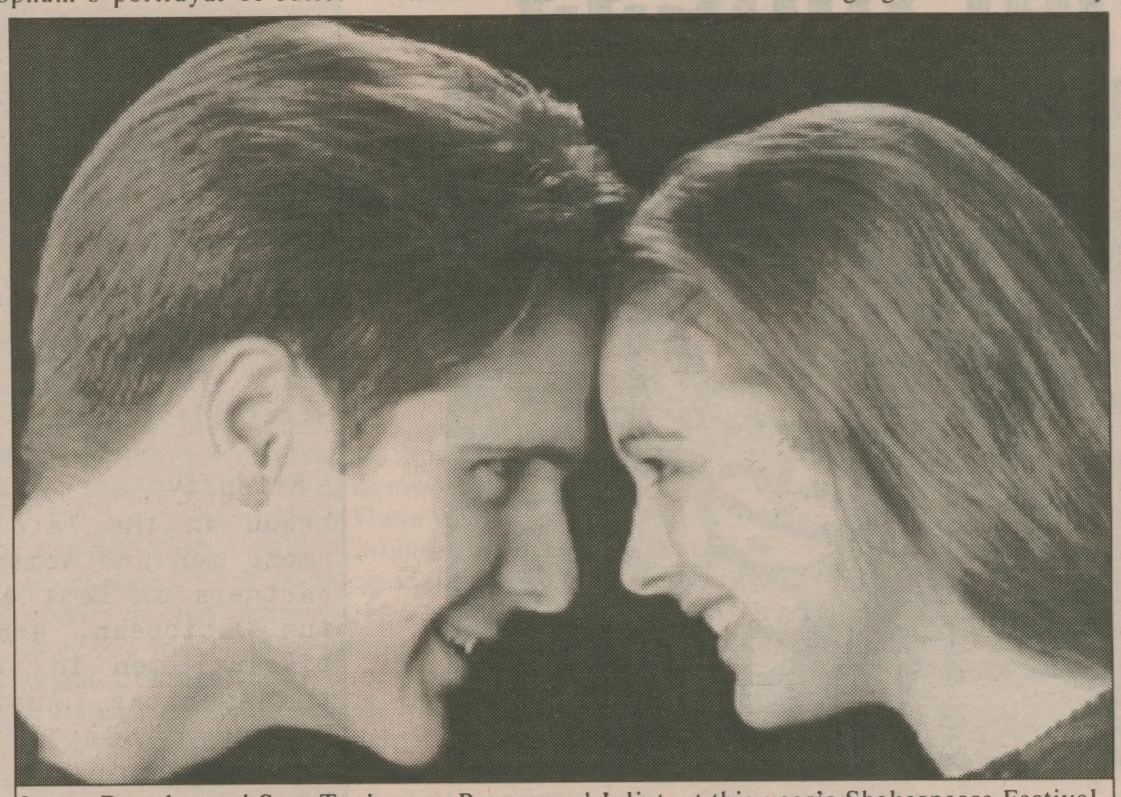
An old classic revamped for this year's Shakespeare Festival

by Chris McManus

Love, romance, death and revenge can all be found in The Island Repertory Company's version of William Shakespeare's, Romeo and Juliet. A favorite classic of this year's Shakespeare Festival, this production will both charm and enchant you.

James Douglas and Sara Topham are excellent in the lead roles. Romeo first appears as a bumbling school boy, unsure of the ways of the world. But, as his relationship with Juliet blossoms, his character matures into the grief stricken Romeo portrayed in his final scene. The audience shares in this transformation which leads to a heightened awareness of Romeo's plight.

The role of Juliet also begins with the childlike exuberance of inexperience. Juliet, who is only thirteen, plunges into her relationship with Romeo with a blind and giddy love. As the famous balcony scene progresses, it is filled with laughter and teasing instead of the often overdone drama and anguish. Sara Topham's portrayal of Juliet breathes new life into an age-old story. She is a joy to watch and holds a lot of promise for the world of theatre.



James Douglas and Sara Topham as Romeo and Juliet at this year's Shakespeare Festival.

The play itself flows along beautifully. Trimmed down by director Colin Plant, the beauty of the language and the rich array of emotions are not sacrificed. Worthy of a special mention are the two amazingly choreographed fight scenes. The final confrontation between Romeo and Tybalt (Sean MacMahon) ends in a masterfully staged death; one can almost hear the life force being dragged out of Tybalt.

The supporting cast provides a wonderful backdrop for the tragic love story. Mercutio, played by Timothy Sutherland, is devilishly charming. His dialogue is both risque and witty and is delivered with such elegant panache that he instantly endears himself to the audience. The nurse, played by Gilly Daniels, has a marvelous comedic presence that elevates her role from that of doddering nursemaid to a treasured companion.

Romeo and Juliet is a story familiar to the hearts of many people. This production has a youthful energy that many others have lacked. Come and re-visit the star-crossed lovers of Verona for an hour-and-a-half of laughter and tears.

Something for everyone at this year's festival

by Patrick Lane

One thing is certain–this year's Shakespeare Festival has something for everyone to enjoy. Artistic Director Clayton Jevne chose this year's lineup with crowd pleasing in mind. Owing to the Inner Harbour location of the festival tent, Jevne hopes to cater to the hordes of sweltering tourists arriving in the city daily. The format of this year's festival includes his own "One Man Hamlet" which really must be seen to be appreciated. Jevne masterfully plays every character in this manic 90 minute romp. Also replete with manic potential is "Theatre Skam's version of "The Compleat Wrks of Wllm Shkspr. This show is an unbelievable comedic run through all 37 plays! Rounding out this years selection is "Rocking Horse Theatre's" production of "Twelfth Night" which is perfect for the whole family. Michael J. Croteau is tremendously funny as the narrator. With such a great line-up, this year's festival promises to be successful.

This show is unbelievable

Merry Wives is campy and spirited

by Calinda Brown

The Merry Wives of Windsor, one of three plays produced by Theatre Inconnu for this year's Shakespeare Festival, is a campy, spirited production of the comedy, once you get past the cotton candy hair.

The director, Clayton Jevne, decided to go completely over-the-top with this production and all the elements of the play contribute to the effect.

Costume designer, Carol Rae, created costumes of canvas that were cut to shape and then painted as dresses, tunics and hose, complete with food stains, jewelry and breasts complimenting cotton candy hair in shades of green, blue and pink.

The colours of the brilliantly painted set echoed the colours of the costumes, with bright shades of blue, green and yellow in the style of an impressionist painting.

Many of the actors in the play compete with John Cope - who, as Falstaff, should be the loudest, and most obnoxious - to be the most outrageous character on stage. Surprisingly, the effect works. Falstaff's antics are never upstaged by the costumes, actors or set.

The merry wives of the title are two friends, Mistresses Ford and Page, (Nancy Ford and Catriona Argue) who have received love letters from Falstaff, and decide to humiliate him for being so forward. There is another sub-plot of three suitors vying for Anne Page's (Charlotte Northwest) hand, and another of Mistress Ford trying to make her husband (Demian Lord) jealous.

Mistress Quickly as a lewd 50's housewife

The site for the festival is a tent just off the Inner Harbour. The seating area is small - about a hundred seats. But the voices of some actors, especially the women, were lost because of the acoustics, especially when the stage direction has lines spoken to the back of the stage.

The relatively short production (only ninety minutes) kept the action rolling. Some minor characters from Shakespeare's original were dropped as well as a few scenes, but the heart of the story was kept intact.

Demian Lord's characterization of the jealous Ford was one of the most understated performances. His strong voice and slow delivery meant the audience caught every word and joke. Most of the big laughs came from his performance.

The campy style of the production was used by Crystal Arber to portray the conniving Mistress Quickly as a lewd 50s housewife: very perky and pouty.

Despite some problems with the production, the show is still good entertainment for a summer's evening!

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Sprok on Geestgronden worth looking for

by Randy Gelling

Ab Baars Trio
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
Friday, June 28

The first thing I noticed was that clarinetist/saxophonist Ab Baars looked like a Dutch Buddy Holly. Bassist Wilbert de Joode and percussionist Martin van Duynhoven resembled kindly accountants. But the music these three produced as part of the Jazzfest avant-garde series at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria wasn't nearly as conservative as their appearance. The trio's sound ranged from modern composed music to tightly controlled blasts of noise.

A piece like "Lamoen" with its fragile tone and fractured start-and-stop approach that emphasize the spaces between the notes as much as notes themselves, shows the influence of European composers like Webern.

There was some fine interplay between the bass and clarinet, with Joode skillfully punctuating Baars subdued melodies. This almost telepathic link between the two was highlighted later in the set by a beautiful tenor sax and bass duet.

Baars is a modest leader. His solos are sparse, minimal affairs that can be whispered softly or shouted frantically. He lets his fellow musicians shine, giving them the majority of the solos.

In fact, the highlight of the first set was the cacophonous drum solo of Duynhoven. His energetic, precise anarchy clearly thrilled the audience. Baars and Joode joined in the free-form jam that hinted at the power of free jazz giant Albert Ayler's insane blowing.

After a short intermission the trio came back in a session that paid tribute to the more cerebral side of their music. "Igor's Bransle" and "Birdman of Paris" were directly inspired by the music of avant-garde composers Stravinsky and Messiaen. "Igor's Bransle" was jubilant and spirited in contrast to the moody, cinematic atmosphere of "Birdman of Paris." This drawing upon classical traditions as the foundation for improvisation is the hallmark of European jazz.

Still, straight ahead power wasn't lacking, especially in the brutally militant rhythm that propelled "The Dutch Windmill". The trio ended the night with a surprise selection from Duke Ellington. I'd like to say which song it was, but it was so transformed in the trio's hands that it sounded like one of their own. The audience was obviously impressed. Hopefully the avant-garde series at the gallery will continue to be part of Jazzfest. If you missed this performance the trio's new CD Sprok on Geestgronden is well worth digging up.

Follies feature UVic talent

by Corey Robertson

My conception of composer Jacques Offenbach is inextricably linked to the atmosphere of that famous painting by Toulouse Lautrec of the can-can dancers at Paris' Moulin Rouge, with their stocking clad legs kicking out in defiant abandon from under impossibly frothy skirts. "Parisian Follies," touted as "A Musical Feast in Three Acts," is director and producer Marius Tremblay's dinner theater homage to Offenbach and the style of musical theater that celebrated "gay Paris."

The show is preceded by a sumptuous salad, baked chicken breast and crusty rolls. No vegetarian alternative seemed available, but I didn't ask. The "Follies" are Tremblay's adaptation of several plays.

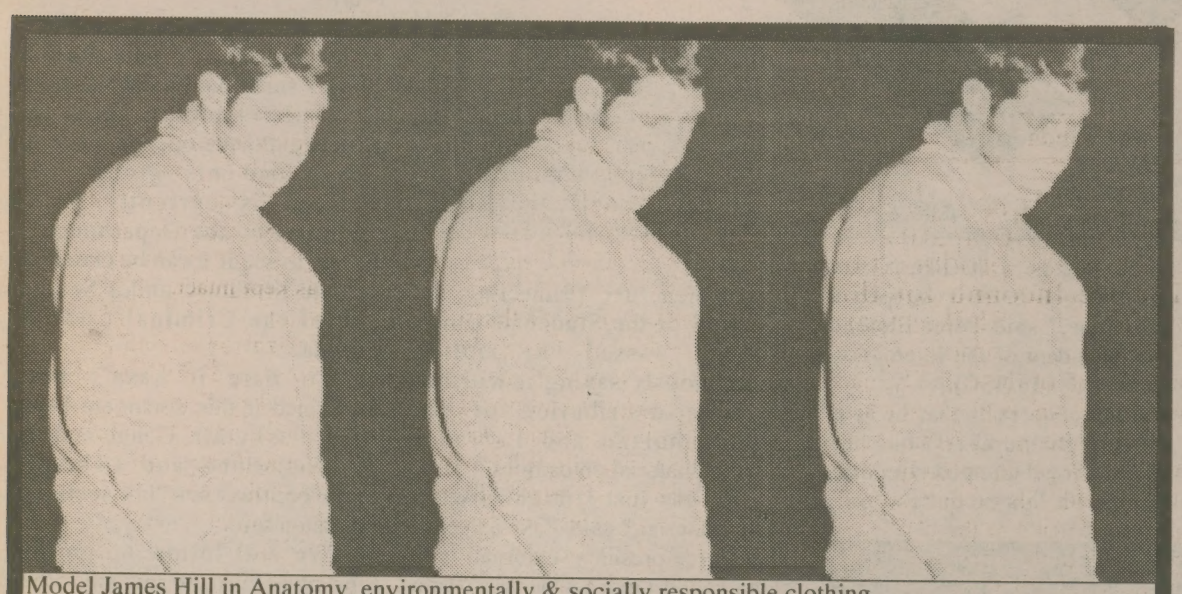
The director was less concerned with artistic purity than with providing an aria for each of his principal soloists including several UVic grads and students. But considering the strong vocal performances given by the entire cast, his efforts were justified.

Musically, "Parisian Follies" is terrific. Music director and recent UVic grad Kinza Tyrrell literally shone in what must surely have been a flawless performance. (To her lively accompaniment, vocalists and dancers paused only long enough for a dessert of mango and strawberry mousse.) An impressively energetic can-can was provided as a finale.

Unfortunately all this virtuosity seems to have been at the expense of acting acumen. In fact, UVic school of music grad Laura Whalen turned out the show's only solid dramatic performances in her roles as a series of joyfully lusty peasants and serving women. The rest of the youthful cast was unable to muster the worldliness and sophistication needed to round out their performances.

I suppose it's that Toulouse Lautrec thing again, but I would have preferred a more convincing "Vie Parisienne." Also, the show is a little long. Food is served at 6:30; the performance begins at 7:30 and concludes around 11:30.

At $50 per person, "Parisian Follies" may prove too rich for most students' blood. It is showing at the Ocean Pointe Resort until Sept. 1. For tickets and info call 360-2999.



Model James Hill in Anatomy, environmentally & socially responsible clothing

photo - David Low

Does Victoria care?

by Patrick Lane

I was one of the fortunate few who was able to attend the first Victoria Cares fund-raiser for people living with AIDS and HIV infection.

The $150.00 black-tie event was held at the main ballroom of the Victoria Conference Center. Although a huge number of people seemed to be in attendance huge during the pre-fashion show shopping, there were still many empty seats at the dinner. My photographer and I didn't find this out till afterwards, as we were not allowed into the ballroom during the meal.

My strongest impression of the evening was of the security. Everywhere we went, we were escorted by at least two menacing people in tight black T-shirts ,emblazoned with the familiar red AIDS ribbon. The shirts were for sale at the event as part of Club Monaco's contribution. I bought one for twenty dollars, and was horrified to discover that it was made in China. Oh well... it was for a good cause.

Other products for sale included cosmetics by MAC, which contributes every cent of the retail selling price of "VIVA GLAM" to the fight against AIDS. Although the numbers aren't in yet on the fashion show fund-raiser, Producer Jaime Crouch considers the show to be a tremendous success for setting the tone of future events.

Despite the obviously low attendance, the event was well staged, and the fashion show made the evening enjoyable. Unfortunately none of our local politicians could attend, but luckily for us many wrote letters published in the glossy program. This, of course, was probably a result of the International Conference on Aids that was held last week in Vancouver. Well, at least I'd like to think that. It's this kind of support that makes me wonder if Victoria cares?

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Newfoundland and Labrador Party spreads hate

by David Cochrane

Canadian University Press
St. John's

A St. John's man is trying to form what he calls a radical political party but what others are calling a racist hate group.

Last week posters appeared on bulletin boards at the Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) campus saying, "Too many Blacks and Asians? Want to do something about it? Join the Newfoundland and Labrador Party." The posters were followed a couple of days later by a pamphlet expanding on the principles of the group.

"A black cloud is descending on Newfoundland and Labrador which threatens the very existence of our culture, our communities and ultimately ourselves," the pamphlet read. "The greatest [threat] to our existence as Newfoundlanders is the imminent wave of Asian immigration which has already begun in central and western Canada and is slowly, but surely, gathering momentum here in Newfoundland."

The man behind the pamphlet is Rod Genge, a 30-year-old unemployed university drop-out and self-professed leader of the Newfoundland and Labrador Party. Genge preaches a doctrine similar to many pro-white hate groups but insists his party isn't racist and isn't connected to any racist organizations locally or nationally.

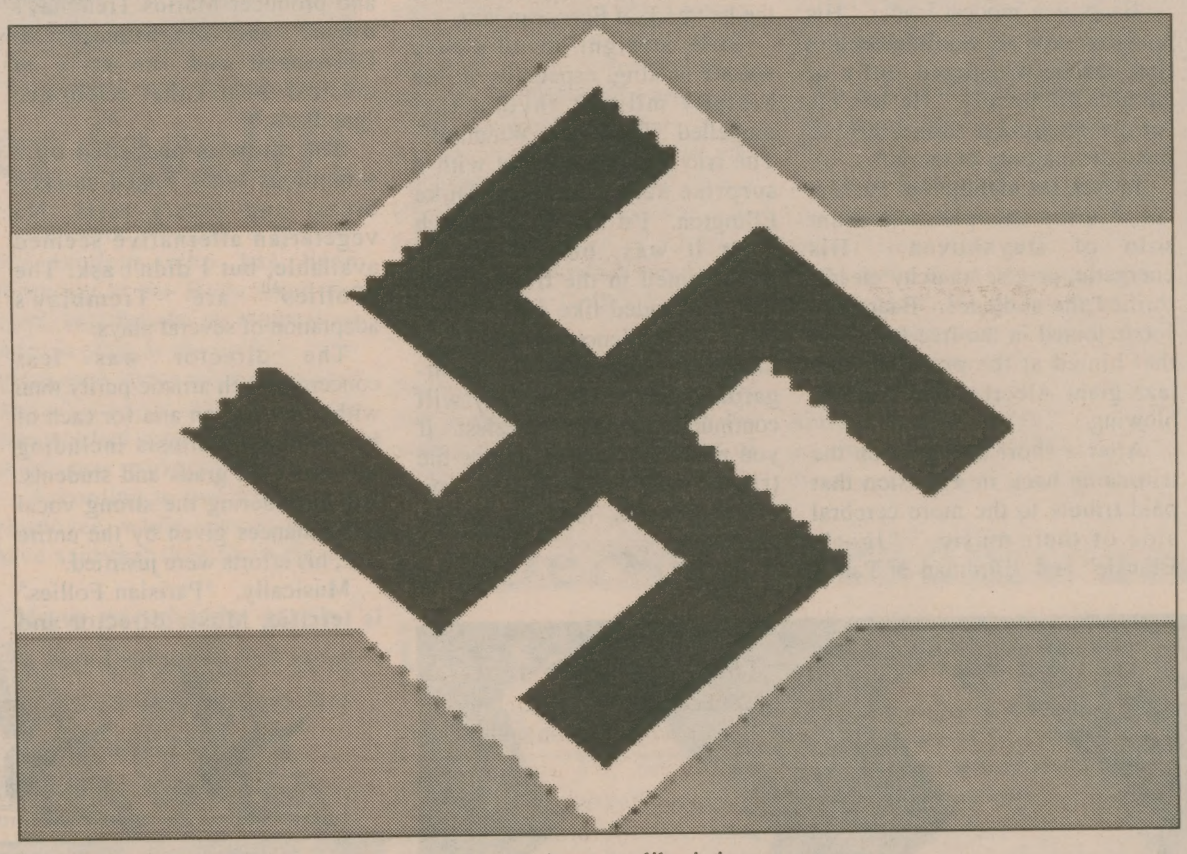
"A racist is a person who believes that one group is superior to another group or that one population is superior to another population based on the colour of a person's skin," said Genge in an interview.

"There was nothing in that passage to suggest in any way shape or form that we consider ourselves . . . superior to black, aboriginal or asian people."

"Rather, the Newfoundland and Labrador Party is against multiculturalism and believes in segregation," said Genge. "Human nature is to mix with your own."

"We can all get along hunky dory now while white people maintain control and just dole it out in kind little bits . . . but when (ethnic) groups become strong enough to make demands that's when the friction starts."

Genge plans to try and make the Newfoundland and Labrador Party an official political party and run candidates in upcoming elections. He admitted that his group is small saying, "you could fit us all into a Volkswagen" but this comment leads some people to believe that the entire party could actually sit on a unicycle.



"It sounds to me like it is one guy trying to drum up support for his cause," said Peter Fletcher, vice president of the International Student Centre (ISC).

"My concern is that he is not looking for numbers, but he is looking for dedicated supporters and there might be quite a few of them out there."

Fletcher said he is surprised to see something like this happen in Newfoundland and that he is worried the group may gain some support among the young and less educated. Fletcher said that the party's policies are clearly racist and that the ISC will work with the student government to make sure the posters don't appear on campus.

At their June 19 meeting, the Council of the Students' Union (CSU) passed a motion unanimously saying it will not tolerate distribution of the Newfoundland and Labrador Party's material on campus.

"It was just straightforward hate material," said Zaki Saleemi, CSU vice president external, who also called Genge's party a "hate group."

"It wasn't targeting only one group of people. It was homophobic as well as sexist and it is hate propaganda. That is not acceptable."

In his pamphlet, Genge also targeted feminists saying that they are too concerned with "the right to abort their unborn children" and he called homosexuals "Sodomites." The pamphlets were spread to other parts of the city, but the highest concentration was at the university in what Genge said was an attempt to recruit people with similar views to the party. As soon as the MUN administration became aware of the posters they sent people out to take them down.

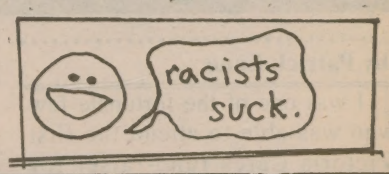
"This kind of material is not appropriate," said Peter Morris of University Relations. "We don't want it on our bulletin boards or anywhere on our campus and we're going to do what we can to prevent it from coming on (campus)."

Morris said that if Genge tries to come back to MUN and put up more posters he will be asked to leave and may be charged with trespassing. He also said that if a student or MUN employee tried to distribute similar material they would likely face disciplinary action. "From the perspective of the university this is at least hateful even if it is not classified as legalistic hate literature," said Morris.

Lt. Ab Singleton of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) said that the RNC have received complaints about the posters and have opened a file on Genge and his group. The material is currently being examined by the Department of Justice to see if it can be classified as hate literature under Section 319 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

"To date it hasn't been confirmed if this document being circulated by Mr. Genge and the Newfoundland and Labrador Party contravenes this section," Singleton said.

"We will follow up on this type of document and any other type of similar literature that may cause dissension or hatred towards some identifiable group in society."



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• Community Events •

Live at **the Limit**, 1318 Broad Street: July 19 - Big Sugar, July 20 - the Superfriendz, July 26 - Northern Junk, July 31 - Paul Kelly. Info: 384-3557.

August 11 & 25th - **Local Farm Tour**. Bring the family and visit ALM Farm in Sooke. Info: 598-6276.

The 9th annual Moss Paint-in takes place July 20th. Artists will be gathered from Fort Street to Dallas Road.

VSO's Summer Cathedral Series continues Thursday evenings and Friday afternoons till July 26. 386-6121

As part of the **Sixth Annual Victoria Shakespeare Festival**, the Island Repertory Company is proud to present William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," in a condensed and edited version. To be held in the Inner Harbour. Tix & Info: 360-0234.

Poetry Reading, July 20 at Java Coffeehouse, 537 Johnson Street. David P. Smith, Clint Burnham, & Doug Steedman. Info: 388-5321.

Country, folk, & celtic fiddler music. **Daniel Lapp**. July 19 @ 8:00pm. 1923 Fernwood Street.

Cate Friesen playing Java Coffeehouse, 537 Johnson Street, July 27-28 Islands Folk Festival, Duncan, B.C.

Victoria Summer Dance Festival: July 19 - Daniel Lapp, 1923 Fernwood Rd. Aug. 9 - Djole, 1923 Fernwood, Aug 16 - Allpa Kallpa & Jambo Salama, SUB / UVic. Advance tickets at VIDEA. Info: 370-7447.

Next **Martlet** - August 15!

Latin American Association of UVic presents **The Rama People of Nicaragua Face the Future** with Sarah Tyne, LAA member. July 24, 7pm, Clearihue C305, UVic.

AIDS Vancouver Island's core of 200 volunteers are holding their **9th Annual Bizarre Bazaar** between 10am and 4pm Saturday, July 20, on the grounds of Central Junior High School. Info: Erik Ages 388-2067.

• Ongoing •

World University Service of Canada. Make a difference locally and globally. Get together with like-minded people on your university campus and join a WUSC Local Committee to open up a whole new world. 1-800-267-8699.

The 24 Carrot Country Market will be held in Sidney at the Sanscha Hall Field every Sunday from 10am till 2pm through Sept. 29. Info: 656-4444.

November 13, 1996, is the date of this year's **UVic Women's Conference**. The title, Common Ground: Uncommon People, reflects the diversity of women in their roles, beliefs, ages, and experiences. The conference will acknowledge the contribution of women (students, staff, and faculty) within UVic. The awards committee will accept formal nominations at the start of the fall term. Anyone interested in participating in conference planning can contact Carel Wilkin at 384-3559 or Denise Lunger at 721-7939.

Recreation Integration Victoria needs Volunteers to support persons with disabilities in a variety of recreation and leisure pursuits. If you are able to make a commitment of 2-4 hours per week or are interested in finding out more about our service please call. Info: 477-6314.

• Notices •

Craigflower Summer Camp. Sheep to be tended, chickens to be fed, and butter to be churned are all in a day's work at Craigflower Manor and Schoolhouse during its popular Summer on the Old Farm day camp for kids ages 5-12. Info: 383-4627.

The UVSS Sexual Assault Centre is looking for men and women who would like to make a difference. We are a student driven agency who will provide support and information to ALL members of the university community and **we need your help**. For more information call Katherine W. at 383-5545 or leave a message in the SUB general office.

Pets in Hot Cars. Please don't leave your dog or other animal in a parked car during the hot summer months. You could be risking her life. Even with the windows slightly open, the temperature inside your car will reach 39 degrees C. in 10 minutes in the shade. In 30 minutes it will reach 49 degrees C.
Your pet does not sweat like you do. A hot car interferes with a dog's normal cooling process, that is, evaporation through panting. With nothing but overheated air to breathe a dog can last only a short time before suffering irreparable brain damage or even death. Info: 388-7722

Project Literacy Victoria Third Annual Used Book Sale will be held on Saturday, August 24, 1996 between 10:00am and 3:00pm at St Matthias Church Hall, 600 Richmond Road. Info: 381-3755.

The UVSS Sexual Assault Centre and the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre are accepting applications for their combined crisis line volunteer training. Women interested in making a commitment to helping individuals affected by sexual assault and/or abuse, call 383-5545 to obtain an application and to arrange an interview.

The Canadian Red Cross Society Blood Donor Clinic will be held on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, July 24, 25, and 26 in the foyer of the University Centre Building at UVic from 9:30 to 3:30 each day. Info: 382-2213.

Pen Friend wanted by Albert Assiamah, PO Box 32, Mamprobi-Accra, Ghana. Seeking a student interested in the geography, history, culture, and civilization of Ghana.

• Hey You!!! •

I'm going to have to take matters into my own hands at any moment now!

The fat skinny man has disappeared.

Fargo-chan Happy Birthday to the cutest one-up-ear I ever saw - pesto.

so jinx and trixie were standing off to the side of the road wearing pink halter tops, when they saw a fucked thing. several truckers in bikinis eating cherry pie noisily. i don't think it was a contest.

fargo-darling-chan! it's your birthday baby and you can play if you want to. love yer human momma.

Hey Danita- 4 words: "one, two, three, BUNGY!" ha ha. I miss u!

Andrew- Finally a message just for you. I can't wait till the Sidney Spit weekend. **Happy Birthday** to you and Chad. from Walsh's bud, P.

Tracy & Hellen. Good Luck moving this time round!

Myra, Chris thinks you rock!

Ellen- have fun in Honours!

ATTENTION PLEASE!

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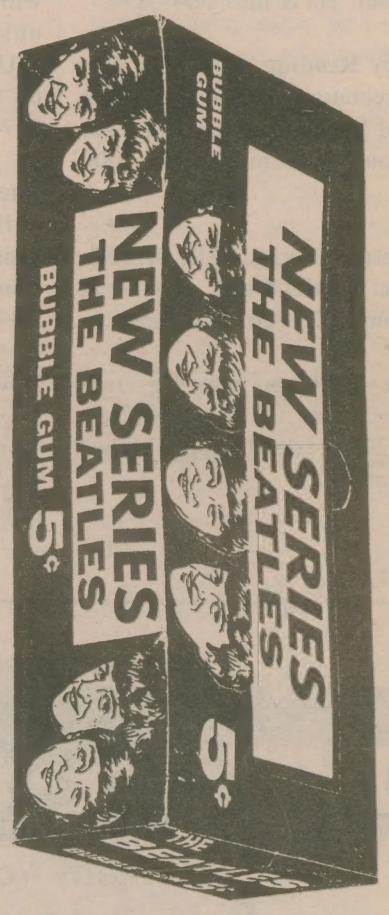

NOTICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS

The Bookstore at the Sub is moving back to it's enlarged and renovated Campus Services Building space.

General books are being moved on July 8th and 9th. General merchandise and the post office are moving on July 10.

The SUB store will be closed as of July 10.

The post office will reopen on July 11 in the convenience store space, accessible from the Bookstore or through the separate entrance to the right and below the main Bookstore door.

Thank you for your patience and support during our renovations.

We would also like to thank the UVSS for allowing us to use the multi-purpose room in the SUB.

Bookstore Management and Staff.

UVic Bookstore